

## Claims

- [c1] A system of incoming mail receptacles for detecting hazards in a mail piece comprising:
- a plurality of incoming mail receptacles each including a hazard detector, a communications system, and a source detection system for providing suspect source information when a hazard is detected;
  - a server connected to the plurality of incoming mail receptacles for receiving suspect source data and communicating the suspect source data to the incoming mail receptacles.
- [c2] The system of claim 1 further comprising:
- a secure network connection between each incoming mail receptacle and the server.
- [c3] The system of claim 1 further comprising: an image scanner for scanning the face of a mail piece
- [c4] A method for coordinated hazard detection in a mail system having a plurality of incoming mail receptacles with hazard detection systems connected to a central server comprising:
- detecting the presence of a mail piece;
  - detecting the source of a mail piece;
  - testing the mail piece for hazards;
  - alerting the central server upon detection of a hazard and providing source information to the central server.
- [c5] The system of claim 4 wherein the source detection includes detecting a meter serial number.
- [c6] The system of claim 4 wherein the source detection includes detecting a return address.
- [c7] The system of claim 4 wherein the source detection includes detecting a handwriting sample.